

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Dielectric ceramic compositions comprising oxides of Ba, Ti, and Nd or strontium titanate with a surface layer of ZnO are known; for example, US 5,296,426 or 5,635,433. However, the coating is not zinc titanate as required in the instant claims. Dielectric ceramic compositions comprising comprising zinc titanate and BaO-TiO₂-Nd₂O₃ are also known; for example, JP 2004-026,542 & JP 2004-026,543. However, neither of these references teaches a surface layer of zinc titanate on individual particles of BaO-TiO₂-Nd₂O₃ as required in the instant claims. Mixing of dielectric ceramic compositions comprising BaO-TiO₂-Nd₂O₃ with a glass composition wherein one of the components in the glass composition contains ZnO is also known. See US 6,703,336. However, the ZnO being a component in a glass composition could not form a zinc titanate surface layer on the ceramic particles as required in the instant claims.
2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to H. (Holly) T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1511. The examiner can normally be reached on 12:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (EST), Mondays to Fridays.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Callie Shosho can be reached on 571-272-1123. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/H. (Holly) T. Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

October 22, 2009